(b) if so, the consecutive details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have been unable to do anything so far in the face of the increasing number of trains passengers day by day; and

(d) if so, whether Government would provide any planned, assured/convenient facilities for the betterment of the rail traffic and safe journey, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that a lot of bunglings are prevalent in the sale of rail tickets and rail reservation. However, during checks, some cases of irregularities in booking and reservation have been detected. With regard to the incidents of theft and looting in trains, as per information available with this Ministry, crime including robbery has increased during the year 2001. However, "Policing" being a State Subject, prevention and detection, of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Railways have by and large been able to cope with the increased passenger traffic. Special trains and additional coaches are run during rush periods. Some of the facilities provided by the Railways to the travelling public are tatkal reservation service, escorting of trains by Govt. Railway Police/Railway Protection Force etc. Regular/surprise checks are also conducted to prevent malpractices and suitable action is taken against persons found at fault.

Projects of Konkan Railway Corporation in Iraq

4757. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has signed an agreement with Iraq for carrying out project works;

(b) whether some of these projects were expected to commence after the contract was signed;

(c) whether the contract was signed in December, 2001;

(d) if so, whether the Minister of Transport and Communication of Iraq desired the Konkan Railway Corporation and CSITA to take up preliminary work on the sky bus metro project jointly on identified routes in Bagadad city;

(e) if so, what are the details of major contracts signed with Iraq; and

(f) by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Only a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Govt. of India and Govt. of Iraq for cooperation in various Railway sector between the two countries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Konkan Railway and SCITAC have presently agreed to work further on the possibility of implementation of Sky Bus Metro in the city of Baghdad.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Financial and operational efficiency of the railways

4758. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways took a number of steps during the last two years to improve the Railway's financial health and operational efficiency and to enhance safety and security of passengers;

(b) whether the Ministry had tried to generate internal resources for development and expansion of capital intensive system, with a country-wide route network of 62,8000 kms. and 7,000 stations, transporting goods and 13 million passengers daily; and

(c) if so, to what extent these measures have improved the financial health and efficiency of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has taken